

Handling The Tough Times

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

"Strength For Stressful Times", Part 1

Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) THE BACKGROUND FOR TOUGH TIMES (v.1)

1) The Situation and Background (see book chart):

2) The Purposes for 2 Thessalonians:

- a) To express encouragement to ___SUFFERING___ Christians. (Chapter 1)
- b) To correct confusion among ___BEWILDERED___ Christians. (Chapter 2)
- a) To exhort ethical living for ___UNINVOLVED___ Christians. (Chapter 3)

3) Our Goal in Understanding 2 Thessalonians:

To handle a stressful future with ___CONFIDENCE AND STRENGTH___ in God's plan for it!

II) THE BACKBONE FOR TOUGH TIMES (v.2-4)

When you're stressed by tough times...

1) Remember what you ___ALREADY HAVE___ in Christ. (v.2)

* To stand firm, look ___UP IN PRAYER___!

2) Reflect on what you ___ARE BECOMING___ in Christ. (v.3)

* To stand firm, look ___AROUND TO OTHERS___!

3) Realize what you ___WILL DEVELOP___ in Christ. (v.4)

* To stand firm, look ___BACK AT PAST PERSEVERANCE___!